

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Summer Assignment (2013-2014)

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We are very excited you will be joining us for AP Language next year! Please read over this summer assignment carefully; we want you to be prepared for an exciting and challenging year when you return in the fall.

1. **Assignment #1: Read *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls.** You may find a copy of this book at any major bookstore, library, or Amazon.com. If you need to check out a book, please come see one of us before the end of the year. Be prepared to **discuss** this book in-depth as well as take a **test** on the novel when you return in September. Although not required, you may annotate as you read.

As you read, you will be collecting passages that speak to the following topics. Here is how you will “collect” the passages:

- Obtain an envelope (no manila or large envelopes. Just a standard sized one) Write your name and “topic” on the front. Your assigned topic will depend on the **month** you were born (January is #1, February is #2, etc...). **As you read, record quotations (with page number, chapter number and speaker name) on index cards or slips of paper. On the backside of your card/paper, you should explain the relevance of the quote to the prompt.** Place these slips inside of your envelope.
- The purpose of this assignment is to teach you to READ CLOSELY. The kinds of quotations you choose will be quite telling about the depth of thought you are bringing to the reading of *The Glass Castle*. **You need to find passages that probe the idea of the prompt, rather than just containing general references to the topic.**
- Your envelope should contain **at least 10-15 quotations** relevant quotations.
- Even though you are only tracking one topic for the summer, you will be expected to work with other envelope topics during the first week of school activities. These activities will include assessments like: essays, graded discussions, and group work. So we strongly suggest that you make some notes about the other topics on a piece of paper.

2. **Assignment #2: “This I Believe” Essay**

According to National Public Radio (NPR), “Fifty years ago, millions of Americans sat by their radios and listened to *This I Believe*. For five minutes each day, they heard from statesmen and secretaries, all of whom spoke about their most deeply held beliefs.”

A few years ago, NPR decided to bring back the **This I Believe** series. Each week, NPR broadcasts one short essay of 500 words (3 minutes) submitted by a listener. Your assignment is to read the information, requirements, and several examples from the NPR website, and then write your own “This I Believe” essay.

1. Go to <http://thisibelieve.org/>. Click on “**Write**” in the top ribbon and then click on “**Essay Guidelines**” in the drop down menu. Read over the guidelines to prepare to write your own essay.
2. Once you know the prompt and the guidelines, consider carefully what you will write about. 500 words isn’t much, so be concise, but don’t lose your style. Outline or jot down your ideas.
3. **Write the essay.** The final should be typed. Include the word count at end of the essay.

3. **Assignment #3: AP Language Terms.** On the back of this handout, you will find a list of **AP terms to define**. You will define these terms on paper or note cards (one term per card with the term on one side and the definition on the other side). We will review these terms during the first weeks of class, and you will be tested on them. Additionally, we will use them throughout the ENTIRE year!

All three assignments due Tuesday, September 3, 2013.

If you have any questions, these documents will be posted on our teachers pages at www.vhstigers.org, or you can email us through our school accounts. We will also post helpful links to MLA guidelines and glossaries on our teacher websites. We look forward to an exciting and busy year next year!

Mrs. Diebolt, Mr. Henry, and Mrs. Roh

Plagiarism: The school’s plagiarism policy will be applied to any plagiarism for the summer assignment. You will not receive credit for plagiarism because you did not do the work. Furthermore, you may not make up the assignment. You may not use SparkNotes, MonkeyNotes, or any other materials to replace reading the actual book. This also means you may not use information from these websites for your paper (i.e. direct quotes or paraphrasing). You may not use materials from another student. If you are having difficulty comprehending the readings, writing the assignments, or completing the assignments, please email any of the teachers. This is the best way to avoid panicking and resorting to cheating.

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AP LANGUAGE TERMS – THE BIG PREVIEW

Argument and literary analysis are important parts of the Advanced Placement Language and Composition course and there are some common terms that all students should know. Look up and record definitions for each of the following terms. We will elaborate on these terms throughout the year, but you must begin with a basic foundation.

You will have a test on these terms and definitions when we return in September. You will define these terms on paper or note cards (**one term per card with the term on one side and the definition on the other side**). Please **handwrite the term and definition** for the following words (**DO NOT TYPE**). Define only the numbered words.

RHETORICAL STRATEGIES & TERMS

1. Aristotelian or Rhetorical Triangle
2. Clichés
3. Colloquial expressions, Slang, Idioms
4. Connotation & Denotation
5. Diction
6. Ethos, Pathos, Logos
7. Euphemism
8. Mood
9. Slanted language
10. Style
11. Syntax
12. Tone
13. Imagery (or Picturesque Language)

RHETORICAL MODES

1. Argumentation
2. Description
3. Exposition
4. Narration

KEY TERMS (*likely to appear on AP Language exam*)

1. Allusion
2. Analogy
3. Anecdote
4. Antecedent
5. Antithesis
6. Apostrophe
7. Archetype
8. Argument
9. Assumption
10. Attitude
11. Audience
12. Bias
13. Claim
14. Concession
15. Concrete & Abstract Language
16. Counterargument
17. Didactic
18. Digression
19. Equivocation (double entendre or puns)

20. Hyperbole
21. Induction & Deduction
22. Irony
23. Metaphor & Simile
24. Occasion
25. Oxymoron
26. Paradox
27. Parallel structure
28. Parody
29. Periodic & Loose Sentences
30. Persona
31. Personification
32. Point of View
33. Propaganda
34. Repetition
35. Refute
36. Rhetoric
37. Satire
38. Speaker
39. Synthesis
40. Thesis
41. Understatement

LOGICAL FALLACIES

1. Ad Hominem
2. Appeal to Tradition
3. Bandwagon Effect
4. Begging the Question
5. False Dilemma (or Either-or Fallacy)
6. Faulty Use of Authority (or Emotional Appeal)
7. Hasty Generalization
8. Non-sequitur
9. Post hoc, ergo propter hoc (or Doubtful Cause)

Adapted from Dawn Hogue's *AP English Language and Composition Crash Course*

You may find help with rhetorical terms on the following sites:

- 1) <http://www.cvsd.org/university/classes/eng/alentz/documents/rhetorical%20vocab..pdf>
- 2) <http://teachers.sduhsd.net/ppennock/ap%20resource%20packet.pdf>
- 3) <http://mcl.as.uky.edu/glossary-rhetorical-term>

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The Glass Castle: Envelope Topics

TOPIC #1 (January birthdays):

Read the epigraph by Dylan Thomas at the beginning of the book. Interpret the poem. Then trace its relevance throughout the memoir.

TOPIC #2 (February birthdays):

Collect passages that both describe and speak to the children's "education". What can you infer is important to the family? Keep in mind that education doesn't only mean traditional schooling.

TOPIC #3 (March birthdays):

Trace and collect passages about both the mother and father's methods for raising children. Be prepared to comment on how the parents' views contrast with traditional methods.

TOPIC #4 (April birthdays):

Trace and collect passages about the role of religion in the book. What message about religion does Jeanette Walls seem to be making?

TOPIC #5 (May birthdays):

Although Jeanette faces great hardship during her childhood, she also grows and matures as a result of her experiences. Collect passages/events that contributed to her growth and maturity.

TOPIC #6 (June birthdays):

Select Jeanette's three most important character traits that allow her to escape from her impoverished childhood. Then find passages/quotes from the memoir to illustrate the traits you choose. Be sure to label each quote with the trait.

TOPIC #7 (July birthdays):

As teenagers, Lori, Jeanette and Brian forged a strong sibling bond that was crucial to their future happiness. Choose passages that help to describe their relationship and help to show how they encouraged one another to persevere in even the most difficult situations.

TOPIC #8 (August birthdays):

The title of the book is symbolic. Choose passages that not only describe/reference the "glass castle" but that ones that develop its symbolic significance for the family.

TOPIC #9 (September birthdays):

In what ways have Lori, Brian and Jeanette been damaged by their childhood experiences? Collect passages that are responsible for and/or contributed to their "damage".

TOPIC #10 (October birthdays):

Although Jeannette's parents had deep troubles, they also had their strong points, and Jeannette explores both sides with insight, humor and compassion. Characterize/describe Rex Walls. What perception about Rex did Jeanette paint for her readers? How are we supposed to feel about him? Then choose passages that support your characterization.

TOPIC #11 (November birthdays):

Although Jeannette's parents had deep troubles, they also had their strong points, and Jeannette explores both sides with insight, humor and compassion. Characterize/describe Jeanette's mother. What perception about her did Jeanette paint for her readers? How are we supposed to feel about her? Then choose passages that support your characterization.

TOPIC #12 (December birthdays):

Choose topic 1 or 6